

(f) how much fund has been earmarked for the scheme and which public sector insurance company has been made the nodal organisation to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes Sir. Union Budget 2007-08 has announced the introduction of Weather (Rainfall) Based Crop Insurance Scheme on pilot basis in 2-3 States;

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The scheme is proposed to be implemented on actuarial basis with an element of upfront subsidy in premium.

(d) and (e) This pilot scheme is proposed to be implemented initially in selected areas and crops of Karnataka and Maharashtra subject to availability of adequate rainfall data and consent of the concerned State. The scheme will cover all types of farmers including small farmers.

(f) A budgetary provision of Rs. 100 crores has been announced in the Union Budget 2007-08 and the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) will be the implementing agency for the scheme.

Enhancing productivity

3218. **SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:**
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country may soon become a major foodgrain importer if Government do not initiate immediate steps to boost farm output considering today's level and a situation would emerge by 2020 where India would be a major importer;

(b) whether agriculture performance is an area of deep concern and the Prime Minister has already stressed the need for injecting fresh dynamism in agriculture in order to achieve the overall growth profile;

(c) whether the Ministry has already prepared an action plan for enhancing productivity; and

(d) the steps Government proposed to take to meet the foodgrain shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The foodgrain production over last five decades has made an impressive stride. The production of foodgrains has increased from 50.82 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 213.19 million tonnes in 2003-04 and declined thereafter marginally to 208.58 million tonnes in 2005-06. The Prime Minister while addressing the National Development Council Meeting on December 9, 2006, desired the need to address the problem of rejuvenating our agriculture with renewed vigour. Focused and concerted efforts are being made to revitalize agriculture sector, improvement in its production and productivity and enhancement of the income of the farmers. Integrated Cereals Development Programme is under implementation under Macro Management Programme to enhance the production and productivity of cereals, i.e., rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and other millets. To increase the production and productivity of pulses, maize and oilseeds, the Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under operation. National Rainfed Area Authority has been established in 2006 for the sustainable development of rainfed and dryland agriculture in the country. To enhance the water use efficiency in water scarce areas and to enhance the production of agricultural crops including foodgrains, the scheme of Micro Irrigation has been launched in 2005-06. It is also the endeavour of the Government to promote public-private partnership in agriculture sector in various areas like agricultural extension, input supply and marketing support for enhancing the production and productivity of various crops including foodgrains.

Workers in fishery sector

3219. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of fisheries in the country;
- (b) the total number of workers engaged in fish processing industries; and
- (c) the total number of women in fishery sector as fishers and in fish processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the 17th Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in 2003.